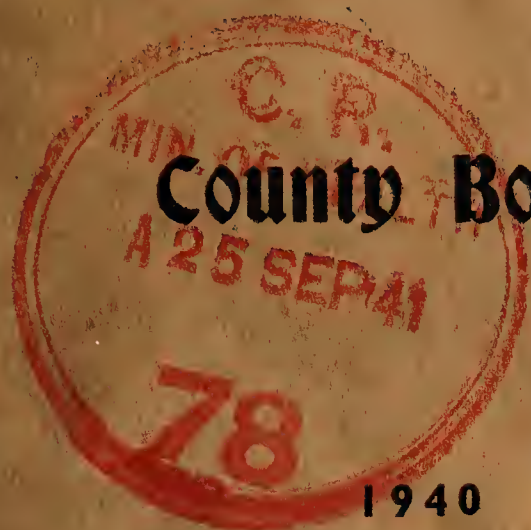
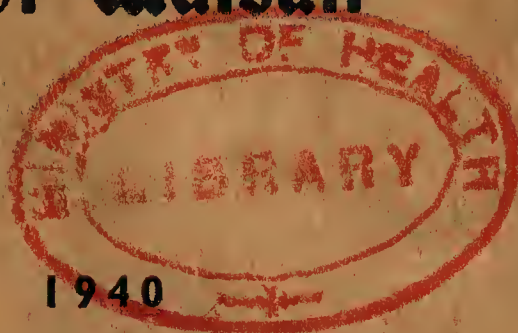


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1940



1940

# ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE  
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH  
AND  
SCHOOL MEDICAL OFFICER  
TOGETHER WITH THE REPORT OF THE  
CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR  
FOR THE YEAR 1940



JAMES A. M. CLARK,  
M.D., Ch.B. D.P.H.



COUNTY BOROUGH OF WALSALL.

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**ANNUAL REPORT**  
OF THE  
**MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH**

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TO THE MAYOR, ALDERMEN AND COUNCILLORS OF THE  
COUNTY BOROUGH OF WALSALL.

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

This report on the Health of the Borough for the year 1940, prepared in accordance with the Ministry of Health's instructions, like its predecessor is considerably curtailed.

During the early part of the year we experienced a prolonged spell of very severe weather, reflected in the increased death rate from respiratory affections, principally Bronchitis, in persons over the age of 45. Apart from this, the year has been a healthy one and the incidence of infectious disease has remained low.

There has been comparatively little usage of the Public Shelters in the borough so that we have not had to deal with any shelter problems.

Infantile Mortality is again satisfactory and there have been no Maternal Deaths during the year.

While much time has necessarily been devoted to Civil Defence, the Social Services have been maintained, the attendances at the Infant Welfare Centres have been exceptionally good.

The position with regard to milk sold under the Special Designations Orders is by no means satisfactory and has caused much concern. Reference to the report of the Chief Sanitary Inspector reveals that a high percentage of graded milk samples submitted for examination failed to pass the test; the milk did not come up to the standard of cleanliness required. The conditions under which designated milks are being produced and sold are deteriorating.

The Casualty Services, for which we are responsible, has not yet, fortunately, been put to any severe test. The Service is ready for any call which may be made upon it, the personnel are keen, and for this we are indebted to the doctors in charge of the First Aid Posts, and to the members of the staff, who have given so much of their time to their allotted tasks.

To the many volunteers who have given so freely of their services, to the whole time members of the Casualty Services, and particularly to the members of the staff of the department who have worked early and late, I tender my grateful thanks for their loyal and generous co-operation.

To the Chairmen and Members of all my Committees my thanks are due for their continued help and encouragement.

I am,

Yours obediently,

JAMES A. M. CLARK, M.D., D.P.H.,

Medical Officer of Health.

August, 1941.



## SUMMARY OF STATISTICS.

### 1. General Statistics.

Area in Acres	..	..	..	..	..	..	8,780
Population (At Census 1931)	..	..	..	..	..	..	103,059
Number of Inhabited Houses	{	At	1931 Census	..	..	23,311	
Number of Families				..	..	24,953	
Population 1940 (estimated)	..	..	..	..	..	102,700	
Number of New Houses erected in 1940	..	..	..	..	..	47	
Number of Inhabited Houses 1940	..	..	..	..	..	27,951	
Number of Persons per House	..	..	..	..	..	3.67	
Rateable Value	..	..	..	..	..	..	£548,700
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	..	..	..	..	..	..	£2,093
Population per Acre	..	..	..	..	..	..	11.7

### 2. Extracts from Vital Statistics.

Number of Births	{	Legitimate	M.972—F.883—Total 1,855—Total	
Registered		Illegitimate	M. 24—F. 24—Total 48—1,903	
Birth Rate per 1,000 population		..	..	18.53
Number of Deaths (M. 683, F. 595)		..	..	Total 1,278
Crude Death Rate per 1,000 population		..	..	12.44
Standardised Death Rate		..	..	14.06
Number of Women dying in or in consequence of Childbirth—				
From Puerperal Sepsis		..	..	Nil
From other Puerperal Causes		..	..	Nil
Maternal Mortality per 1,000 (live and still) Births			..	Nil
Number of Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age		..	..	116
Infant Mortality per 1,000 Births (Births 1,896)		..	..	61.18
Infant Mortality (legitimate infants) per 1,000 births			..	60.06
Do. (illegitimate infants) do.		..	..	104.17
Death Rates per 1,000 Population, from—				
Respiratory Tuberculosis		..	..	0.71
All forms of Tuberculosis		..	..	0.76
Respiratory Diseases (excluding Tuberculosis)			..	2.14
Cancer		..	..	1.55
Seven Principal Zymotic Diseases (Smallpox, Enteric Fever, Measles, Scarlet Fever, Whooping Cough, Diphtheria and Membranous Croup)				
		..	..	0.16

Death Rate from Diarrhoea and Enteritis of Children under 2 years of age, per 1,000 births	..	..	..	14.24
Deaths from Diarrhoea under 2 years	..	..	..	27
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	..	..	..	Nil
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	..	..	..	10

#### CORONER'S INQUESTS.

168 inquests were held in the Borough during the year (112 males and 56 females).

POST-MORTEM EXAMINATIONS ordered by Coroner .. .. 115

SUMMARY OF INQUESTS.	M.	F.
Death by Murder .. .. .	—	—
„ Suicide .. .. .	8	3
„ Manslaughter and Infanticide ..	—	—
„ Self-induced Abortion .. ..	—	—
„ Excessive Drinking .. .. .	—	—
„ Want of Attention at Birth .. ..	1	—
Accident or Misadventure .. .. .	51	26
Death from Natural Causes .. .. .	50	27
Stillborn .. .. .	2	—
Open Verdicts .. .. .	—	—
Inquests adjourned .. .. .	—	—
	<hr/> 112	<hr/> 56
Inquests on children suffocated whilst in bed (accidental) .. .. .	—	—
Inquests on bodies of newly born children ..	1	1

### Vital Statistics.

The population as estimated by the Registrar General is 102,700, a reduction from the previous year. This is, in our opinion, an under estimate.

The Birth Rate is 18.53 as compared with 14.6 in England and Wales as a whole, and 16.0 for the large towns.

The Death Rate again shows a slight increase being 12.44 as compared with 14.3 for the country as a whole and 15.8 for the large towns.

The Infant Mortality Rate calculated this year, not on the actual number of births but on a figure supplied by the Registrar General, is 61.18, as compared with 58 in the previous year. The rate for the country as a whole is 55, and for the great towns 61.

There were no Maternal Deaths during the year.

The Death Rate from Respiratory Tuberculosis shows a slight reduction, 0.71 as against 0.77 per 1,000 of the population. On the other hand the death rate from other Respiratory Diseases shows a considerable increase, being 2.14 per 1,000 as against 1.35 in the previous year, the cause being due principally to the great increase in the number of deaths from Bronchitis in persons over 45 years of age. This increased fatality rate may be ascribed to the prolonged spell of very severe weather which we experienced in the early part of the year.

# CAUSES OF DEATH AT DIFFERENT PERIODS OF LIFE IN WALSALL COUNTY BOROUGH, 1940

As furnished by the Registrar-General

CAUSES OF DEATH.		Sex	All Ages	0—	1—	5—	15—	45—	65—
ALL CAUSES	.. .. .	M. F.	683 595	68 48	22 15	13 10	88 70	205 151	287 301
1. Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers	.. .. .	M. F.	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —
2. Cerebro-Spinal Fever	.. .. .	M. F.	5 2	— —	1 1	1 1	2 —	1 —	— —
3. Scarlet Fever	.. .. .	M. F.	1 —	— —	— —	— —	1 —	— —	— —
4. Whooping Cough	.. .. .	M. F.	7 3	6 1	1 1	— 1	— —	— —	— —
5. Diphtheria	.. .. .	M. F.	2 3	— —	2 1	2 1	— —	— —	— —
6. Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	.. .. .	M. F.	42 31	1 —	— —	— 1	18 22	21 7	2 1
7. Other Forms of Tuberculosis	.. .. .	M. F.	4 3	— —	3 2	— —	1 1	— —	— —
8. Syphilitic Diseases	.. .. .	M. F.	7 2	2 —	— —	— —	1 —	3 —	1 2
9. Influenza	.. .. .	M. F.	18 11	— —	2 —	— —	3 1	6 2	7 8
10. Measles	.. .. .	M. F.	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —
11. Ac. Poliomyelitis, etc.	.. .. .	M. F.	— 1	— —	— 1	— —	— —	— —	— —
12. Ac. Inf. Encephalitis	.. .. .	M. F.	1 —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —
13. Cancer, Buc. Cavity, Oesophagus and Uterus	.. .. .	M. F.	11 13	— —	— —	— —	— 3	4 6	1 7
14. Cancer, Stomach and Duodenum	.. .. .	M. F.	7 14	— —	— —	— —	— 1	4 6	3 7
15. Cancer of Breast	.. .. .	M. F.	— 24	— —	— —	— —	— 4	— 10	— 10





### Infectious Disease.

The incidence of infectious disease remained low throughout the year. Diphtheria again showed a notable decrease, 58 cases being notified as against 83 cases in 1939; there were 5 deaths, the same as in the previous year.

During the year 1,141 children were immunised against Diphtheria as against 248 in 1939. Toxoid Antitoxin Mixture, or Floccules, were again used, the use of the former being later discontinued. All the schools in the borough had been covered prior to the broadcast appeal made by the Minister of Health, but we are glad to state that our efforts to extend the protection against Diphtheria to children under the age of five were greatly helped by the Minister's timely appeal. Far too many parents, however, remain apathetic and ignore all appeals, even personal ones. They promise to "think about it."

None of the 58 cases of Diphtheria occurring during 1940 had been previously immunised.

There were 190 cases of Scarlet Fever as against 256 cases in 1939; there was one fatal case.

There were 47 cases of Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis notified with 7 deaths.

Four cases of Typhoid Fever were notified.

There were 239 cases of Measles notified and 590 cases of Whooping Cough. There were 10 deaths from Whooping Cough during the year.

218 cases of Pneumonia were notified as against 177 in 1939. There were 82 deaths.

484 cases were admitted to the Isolation Hospital during the year, 251 of these being from other districts. 153 cases of Diphtheria were admitted and there were 17 deaths. 170 cases of Scarlet Fever were admitted, 12 cases of Measles, 4 of Typhoid Fever and 130 of other diseases.

# ISOLATION HOSPITALS

Table showing cases admitted, deaths, case fatality rate, duration of stay, and percentage of cases isolated.

Diseases	No. of cases notified	No. of cases admitted			Deaths			Mortality rate per 1,000 cases admitted	Total No. of patient days in 1940	Average duration of stay (weeks) of patients discharged or died	Percentage of notified cases isolated
		Walsall	Other Districts	Total	Walsall	Other Districts	Total				
Smallpox .. ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria .. ..	58	53	100	153	5	12	17	111.1	6306	6.0	91.4%
+ Contacts .. ..	—	7	4	11	—	—	—	—	163	2.9	—
Scarlet Fever .. ..	190	98	72	170	—	—	—	—	5279	4.4	51.6%
Measles .. ..	239	8	4	12	—	—	—	—	137	1.6	—
Erysipelas .. ..	61	3	1	4	—	—	—	—	38	1.4	4.9%
Enteric Fever .. ..	4	1	3	4	—	—	—	—	139	4.9	100.0%
Other Diseases .. ..	—	63	67	130	6	9	15	105.6	1893	2.1	—
Total .. ..	552	233	251	484	11	21	32	66.1	13955	4.2	—

# CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFIED DURING THE YEAR 1940

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE	CASES NOTIFIED IN WHOLE DISTRICT												TOTAL CASES NOTIFIED IN EACH WARD									Total Deaths	
	At All Ages.	At Ages—Years											Bloxwich Ward	Leamore Ward	Harden Ward	Birchills Ward	Hatherton Ward	Paddock Ward	Bridge Ward	Pleck Ward	Caldmore Ward		Palfrey Ward
		Under 1	1 to 2	2 to 3	3 to 4	4 to 5	5 to 10	10 to 15	15 to 20	20 to 35	35 to 45	45 to 65											
Small-Pox ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cholera (C.) Plague (P.)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria ..	58	—	2	4	5	26	13	6	1	1	18	19	7	2	3	15	8	3	5	2	4	16	5
Erysipelas ..	61	2	—	1	—	—	2	1	11	1	18	19	7	5	8	16	5	2	2	8	2	3	1
Scarlet Fever ..	190	—	2	8	12	19	27	16	29	7	7	1	—	14	9	44	18	7	12	38	8	20	1
Typhus Fever ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Enteric Fever ..	4	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Measles ..	239	8	18	19	31	110	13	6	14	4	4	—	—	8	20	17	28	30	13	23	31	50	—
Whooping Cough ..	590	67	78	86	80	187	15	1	1	3	3	—	—	76	36	167	50	13	26	118	34	45	10
Puerperal Pyrexia ..	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	1	1	—	—	1	—	2	—	—	1	—	—	—	—



Cerebro-spinal Meningitis	..	47	3	5	2	3	2	6	3	9	12	1	1	—	9	7	9	4	1	5	3	5	4	—	7
Poliomyelitis	..	3	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	1	—	—	2	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Ophthalmia Neonatorum..	..	7	7	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	—	1	1	—	—	1	—	
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System		98	1	1	—	—	—	6	3	15	36	11	23	2	9	6	20	17	3	6	9	10	8	10	73*
Other Forms of Tuberculosis	..	17	—	3	1	1	—	4	2	1	2	1	—	2	1	—	2	—	1	4	1	1	4	3	7*
Acute Encephalitis Lethargica	..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Acute Primary and Influenzal Pneumonia		218	9	7	16	9	5	27	9	13	34	29	45	15	20	21	60	20	9	11	10	27	14	26	82*
Malaria	..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Polio-Encephalitis	..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Dysentery	..	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	
TOTALS	..	1,537	97	114	134	118	142	437	89	69	143	77	89	28	151	110	360	150	70	98	82	232	111	173	186

\*These deaths do not necessarily refer to the cases notified.

## MANOR HOSPITAL.

In spite of the restrictions imposed, the hospital has experienced a very busy year, the number of admissions, 4,577 being only 18 less than in the previous year.

The Massage and Electrical Department, the Outpatient and Casualty Department and X-Ray Department have all experienced an exceptionally busy year, the increase of work in the Casualty Department being substantial.

	1940	1939
	—	—
Massage and Electrical .. ..	11,737	11,702
X-Ray .. ..	4,194	4,755
Outpatient and Casualty .. ..	45,982	42,098

We are again indebted to the staff for the great help they have given in the training of a large number of Nursing Auxiliaries—members of the Civil Nursing Reserve.

### Statistics for the year ending 31st December, 1940.

Total admissions .. .. .	4,577
Patients in hospital on 1st January .. .. .	222

### Accommodation.

Men .. .. .	130
Women .. .. .	147
Children .. .. .	56
	—
	333
	—

plus 111 Emergency beds

Average number of beds occupied .. .. .	292
Highest number of beds occupied .. .. .	345
Lowest number of beds occupied .. .. .	210
Surgical operations .. .. .	1,386
Dental operations .. .. .	537

**Maternity Department.**

Births	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	616
Stillbirths	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	33
Doctor present at	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	85
Forceps	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	18
Caesarean sections		..	..	..	..	..	..	12
Deaths	..	(1)	Acute anaemia of pregnancy					
		(2)	Cardiac failure owing to fatty degeneration, following interstitial rupture of the uterus.					

Undelivered—nil.

**Massage and Electrical Department.**

Treatments given :—

Massage	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3,748
Electrical	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,850
Radiant Heat	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4,138
Ultra-Violet light	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3,001

**X-Ray Department.**

Number of films taken	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3,782
Number of screen examinations	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	412
Pathology and Bio-chemistry specimens sent to Birmingham University, etc.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	710

**Out-patients and Casualties.**

Total attendances	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	45,982
Fractures (ambulatory)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	155
Fracture Clinic attendances	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,380
Total number of deaths during the year	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	393

## **MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.**

---

At both the Maternity Block, Manor Hospital, and at the Maternity Hospital, Bloxwich, another very busy year has been experienced.

616 confinements took place at the Manor Hospital and 263 at the Maternity Hospital, Bloxwich, 111 in private nursing homes and 1,039 on the district.

The Ante-natal Clinics have functioned normally throughout the year, 949 mothers attending the extern clinics and 618 the Ante-natal Clinic at the Manor Hospital. 98 ante-natal medical examinations were made by doctors on mothers referred to them from the clinics or from Municipal Midwives.

The Maternity and Child Welfare Centres have been well attended; the total attendances being 36,053 as against 35,826 in the previous year.



**Table showing particulars of the cases dealt with at the Maternity Block, Manor Hospital, and at the Maternity Hospital at Bloxwich**

DETAILS OF CASES	MANOR HOSPITAL	MATERNITY HOSPITAL
Number of Cases admitted during 1940 .. ..	616	269
Average duration of stay .. ..	14.0 days	13.2 days
No. of Cases delivered by—		
(a) Midwives .. ..	531	191
(b) Doctors .. ..	85	72
No. of cases in which medical assistance was sought by a midwife in emergency .. ..	246	35
No. of Cases of Puerperal Pyrexia notified ..	Nil.	Nil.
No. of Cases of pemphigus neonatorum ..	Nil.	Nil.
No. of infants not entirely breast fed while in the Institution .. ..	70	16
No. of Cases notified as ophthalmia neonatorum ..	1	Nil.
No. of Maternal Deaths .. ..	Nil.	Nil.
No. of deaths—		
(a) Stillborn .. ..	33	11
(b) Within 10 days of birth and their causes, and the results of the post-mortem examination, if obtainable .. ..	†10	* 4

† 7 died from Premature Birth, 1 from Spina Bifida, 1 from Injury at Birth and 1 from Asphyxia.

\* 1 died from Premature Birth, 1 from Spina Bifida, 1 from Intra-cranial haemorrhage and 1 from Injury at Birth.

**Table showing number of Midwives practising in the Borough and cases attended during 1940**

	Domiciliary Midwives	Midwives in Institutions	Totals
No. of Midwives practising in the Borough at the end of 1940—			
(a) Employed by the Council ..	13	11	24
(b) In private practice .. ..	3	—	3
	16	11	27
	Domiciliary Cases	Cases in Institutions	Totals
No. of cases in the Borough attended by Midwives—			
(a) Employed by the Council—			
(i) As Midwives .. ..	916	722	1,638
(ii) As Maternity Nurses ..	123	157	280
(b) In private practice—			
(i) As Midwives .. ..	—	53	53
(ii) As Maternity Nurses ..	—	58	58
TOTALS { (i) As Midwives .. ..	916	775	1,691
(ii) As Maternity Nurses ..	123	215	338
	1,039	990	2,029

**Attendances Registered at the Infant Welfare Centres.**

CENTRE	Under 6 months		6—12 months		1—2 years		2—5 years		Total		New Cases
	A.	M.	A.	M.	A.	M.	A.	M.	A.	M.	
Pool St. ..	2061	1056	1278	480	1274	342	1639	322	6252	2200	260
Field Rd. ..	2626	1285	1507	530	1330	413	2702	633	8165	2861	436
Littleton St.	2151	1156	1775	659	1018	358	1791	483	8374	3168	269
Countess St.	3008	1533	1989	777	1225	386	2152	472	6527	2335	358
Ida Rd. ..	2298	1101	1570	650	1081	313	1578	271	6735	2656	284
Total ..	12144	6131	8119	3096	5928	1812	9862	2181	36053	13220	1607

A.—Number of Attendances. M.—Number Medically Examined.

# INFANT MORTALITY DURING THE YEAR 1940

Nett Deaths from stated Causes at various ages under One year of age

CAUSES OF DEATH	Total Deaths under One Year	Under 1 week	1-2 weeks	2-3 weeks	3-4 weeks	Total under 4 weeks	1 & under 3 months	3 & under 6 months	6 & under 9 months	9 & under 12 months	Bloxwich	Leamore	Harden	Birchills	Hatherton	Paddock	Bridge	Pleck	Caldmore	Palfrey
Measles .. ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough ..	7	—	—	—	—	—	3	1	2	1	1	—	3	—	—	—	2	—	—	1
Other Common Infectious Diseases .. ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diarrhoea and Enteritis..	24	—	1	1	2	4	8	7	3	2	2	2	4	7	1	1	3	—	1	3
Premature Birth .. ..	27	17	2	3	2	24	3	—	—	—	—	3	4	4	1	3	2	6	—	4
Congenital Malformations; Birth Injury; Infant Diseases ..	27	14	2	3	—	19	5	1	1	1	1	1	7	3	2	2	4	3	1	3
Tubercular Diseases ..	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bronchitis and Pneumonia ..	23	—	1	1	—	2	5	8	4	4	1	3	7	3	—	2	3	4	—	—
Other Causes .. ..	7	3	1	—	—	4	—	2	1	—	—	—	3	1	—	—	—	1	—	2
TOTALS .. ..	116	34	7	8	4	53	24	19	11	9	5	9	28	19	4	8	14	14	2	13

## TUBERCULOSIS.

79 patients were admitted to Pelsall Sanatorium during the year and 44 to Goscote. There were 20 deaths at Pelsall and 11 at Goscote.

98 new cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis were notified during the year as against 92 in the previous year and 17 of other forms as against 9.

320 new patients were examined at the Dispensary as against 355, 101 new cases of Tuberculosis being diagnosed compared with 83. 16.7% of the total examinations represented "contacts."

The following table shows the new cases notified and deaths during 1940.

	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0—1 ..	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
1—5 ..	1	—	3	2	—	—	3	2
5—10 ..	3	3	1	3	—	—	—	—
10—15 ..	2	1	1	1	—	1	—	—
15—20 ..	5	10	1	—	5	6	1	1
20—25 ..	14	3	2	—	1	5	—	—
25—35 ..	9	10	—	—	7	7	—	—
35—45 ..	7	4	—	1	5	4	—	—
45—55 ..	4	3	—	—	8	3	—	—
55—65 ..	12	4	—	—	13	4	—	—
Above 65	2	—	1	1	2	1	—	—
Totals ..	60	38	9	8	42	31	4	3



TABLE SHOWING THE WORK OF THE VENEREAL DISEASES CLINIC DURING THE YEAR 1940.

	Syphilis		Soft Chancres		Gonorrhoea		Conditions other than Venereal		Totals		Totals
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	
Number of cases on Register 1st January, 1940	37	29	—	—	27	18	5	9	69	56	125
Number of old cases returned for treatment or observation of same infection	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	2	2
Number of new cases dealt with for the first time	24	14	1	—	42	18	34	22	101	54	155
Number of new cases transferred from other centres	—	1	—	—	3	—	—	—	3	1	4
Total cases dealt with	61	45	1	—	72	37	39	31	173	113	286
Attendances—Medical examinations	1309	797	3	—	1109	770	120	177	2541	1744	4285
Irrigation, dressings	89	—	—	—	1100	809	112	92	1301	901	2202
Total attendances	1398	797	3	—	2209	1579	232	269	3842	2645	6487
Patients admitted to hospital	1	—	—	—	—	2	—	1	1	3	4
“In-patient days”	55	—	—	—	—	68	—	7	55	75	130
Walsall persons treated at Centres in other towns	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	2
Number of new cases attending during 1940—											
Walsall	29	—	—	—	43	37	37	—	—	—	109
Staffordshire	9	1	1	—	17	19	19	—	—	—	46
Pathological Work— Specimens examined at Walsall Clinic	Microscopical		Others for diagnosis of Venereal Disease								
	for Syphilis	for Gonorrhoea									
	20	665	Nil								

# **ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR**

for the year ended 31st December, 1940

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TO THE MAYOR, ALDERMEN AND COUNCILLORS OF THE  
COUNTY BOROUGH OF WALSALL.

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I herewith submit my Sixth Annual Report, viz :—That for the year 1940, giving particulars of the Sanitary Administration of the Borough.

This has been a year in which the nature of the work has followed largely that reported upon in 1939, but in spite of the calls of Civil Defence every endeavour has been made to maintain the Sanitary Services at as high a level as possible.

The introduction of centralised slaughtering at the Ministry of Food's slaughterhouse, Shortacre Street, has been a feature, and the work in connection with the inspection and supervision of food stuffs generally has been particularly heavy.

The Sanitary Inspectors are only able to deal with such repairs to properties as will keep the properties watertight and the sanitary accommodation maintained in a reasonably satisfactory condition. In fact, towards the end of the year considerable difficulty has been experienced in getting such work executed, due mainly to shortage of labour.

Mr. W. H. M. Edwards, who was a Temporary Sanitary Inspector, has been appointed to the permanent staff as a Sanitary Inspector during the year, and Mr. T. Fox, who was also a Temporary Sanitary Inspector, obtained a permanent appointment with another Authority. Efforts which were made to obtain an Inspector to fill his place were not successful.

The following paragraphs give a brief survey of the work which it has been possible to accomplish during the year.

## SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

The total number of visits and inspections made to all premises for the purpose of sanitary inspection was 17,444, which together with the 5,454 visits made in connection with Civil Defence and Food Control gives a total number of visits of 22,898.

1,683 complaints were investigated, and 1,229 visits were made to infected houses.

345 houses were improved by repairs to the structures, 1,375 houses received attention with respect to water closet and ashbin accommodation, drainage repairs and abatement of other nuisances, a total number of 1,720 houses being improved during the year.

## HOUSING.

At the 31st December, 1939, there were 556 houses in respect of which Clearance, Compulsory Purchase or Individual Demolition Orders were operative, still in occupation. With the cessation of building operations, except for the completion of 12 houses at Coalpool, very little has been able to be done with regard to rehousing. As much use as possible, however, has been made of relet houses, and with the 12 new houses completed during the year, accommodation has been provided for 56 families from the worst of the occupied houses.

At the 31st December, 1940, there remained 500 unfit houses still in occupation. Many of these have been represented for some considerable time and are in an extremely bad state of repair. The Council, however, have been able to proceed with the purchase of a considerable number of the houses included in Compulsory Purchase Orders, and on taking them over have been able to execute some measures of repair, particularly with regard to roofs, spoutings, sanitary accommodation, etc. In some cases owners of properties included in Compulsory Purchase Orders, while retaining the property in their possession, have given undertakings that they will execute reasonable repairs as required by the Sanitary Inspector until such time as the Corporation are able to provide alternative accommodation. The condition of the 500 occupied unfit houses, however, will demand careful attention if any degree of comfort is to be maintained for the occupiers.

The following table shows the progress made under the Housing Acts, 1930 and 1936, from the commencement of the work in November 1930 to 31st December, 1940.



	5 years 1930-4	5 years 1935-9	1940	Total
Houses represented :—				
Individual Unfit Houses ..	367	183	—	550
Parts of a Building for Closing	19	127	—	146
In Clearance Areas .. ..	383	1,951	—	2,334
Totals .. ..	769	2,261	—	3,030
Houses Closed :—				
Individual Unfit Houses ..	230	236	4	470
Parts of a Building for Closing	12	154	—	166
In Clearance Areas .. ..	189	1,521	62	1,772
Totals .. ..	431	1,911	66	2,408
Houses demolished :—				
Individual Unfit Houses ..	190	400	5	595
In Clearance Areas .. ..	168	1,325	64	1,557
Totals .. ..	358	1,725	69	2,152
Demolition Orders made ..	305	161	—	466
Closing Orders made on Parts of Buildings .. ..	25	127	—	152
Persons displaced :—				
From Individual Unfit Houses and Parts of Buildings Closed	1,183	1,547	14	2,744
From Clearance Areas ..	1,037	6,718	255	8,010
Totals .. ..	2,220	8,265	269	10,754

The 69 houses which were demolished during the year were in such a condition that it was impossible to regard them as being suitable for emergency accommodation.



## DISINFESTATION.

A great deal of work with regard to disinfestation was done during the year. During April the provision of a Depot, including garages, stores, offices and steam disinfecting unit, was completed, and the use made of the Depot during the year has amply justified its provision. All the furniture and effects of families rehoused from unfit houses were treated before delivery to Council houses, and a great deal of disinfestation of houses was carried out prior to their being relet, principally by the use of washed heavy naphtha. The services of the Department have also been widely used with respect to the steam disinfection of bedding used in emergency A.R.P. Stations, and a regular service is maintained as far as possible. The owners of bug-infested private houses continue to enlist the help of the Department, and many such houses were disinfested during the year.

## OVERCROWDING.

As stated in my 1939 Report, it is impossible to give any reliable figures with regard to the overcrowding position. Overcrowding cases are constantly being met with on the inspection of the district, but owing to the shortage of housing accommodation it is not possible to be able to institute any satisfactory measures of abatement.

## **INSPECTION and SUPERVISION OF FOOD.**

**Inspection of Meat and Other Foods.** The year 1940 has been a particularly heavy one with respect to the inspection and supervision of food supplies. On the 15th January, 1940, the private slaughterhouses at Shortacre Street and Warwick Street were taken under the control of the Ministry of Food as Government slaughterhouses. It has been found in practice that the slaughterhouse at Warwick Street was only used on one or two occasions, and during the year the premises were de-requisitioned. The whole of the slaughtering is now concentrated at Shortacre Street.

A memorandum issued by the Ministries of Health and Food has requested local authorities to allow the existing inspection services of their departments to continue. No licences under Section 57 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, are required by the Ministry of Food, but persons in charge of the Government slaughterhouses have been instructed to give the same facilities for entry by the officers of local authorities as would exist in ordinary private slaughterhouses.

Local authorities were advised that the provisions of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, with respect to the seizure of unsound food were not applicable in relation to meat in possession of the Crown. If, however, it appears to an authorised officer of a local authority that such meat is unfit for human consumption, the facts should be brought to the notice of the Government's Slaughterhouse Manager as soon as possible.

Special arrangements have been made by the Ministry of Food for the disposal of unsound meat, etc., from slaughterhouses and depots, under guarantee that such meat will not be used for human consumption, the meat being salvaged mainly for the production of fertilisers.

Tribute must be paid to the happy spirit of co-operation which exists between the Sanitary Inspectors and the Government Officials at the slaughterhouse, which has been to the mutual advantage of the Government's scheme for meat control and the inspection of the meat supplies of the district.

It may be mentioned that certain works of adaptation were necessary at the slaughterhouse in order to provide adequate facilities for the concentration of the slaughtering at this one premise. Much of this work was put in hand at the request of the local authority, and took effect some time after the slaughterhouse had been brought into use. Slaughtering conditions at the commencement of the scheme were very

difficult, and were further prejudiced by short supplies, irregular delivery and most abnormal weather conditions. Onerous duties have been placed upon the Inspectors who now have to be in attendance for the whole of the period during which slaughtering is being carried out. After slaughter meat is distributed from the Walsall depot to the following districts :—

Aldridge Urban District (less the parish of Great Barr); Cannock Urban District; Lichfield Borough; Lichfield Rural District; Brownhills Urban District; and Walsall County Borough.

The following table sets out the number of carcasses inspected, together with particulars of carcasses or parts thereof condemned, and is in the form required by the Ministry of Health.

	Cattle excluding cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed and inspected ..	6,332	2,432	5,536	50,430	8,171
ALL DISEASES EXCEPT TUBERCULOSIS .. ..					
Whole carcasses condemned ..	3	15	34	164	20
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ..	2,007	1,058	24	3,695	851
Percentage of the number inspect- ed affected with all diseases except tuberculosis .. ..	31.7%	44.4%	1.0%	7.6%	10.5%
TUBERCULOSIS ONLY					
Whole carcasses condemned ..	15	44	7	Nil	24
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ..	782	1,111	24	Nil	993
Percentage of the number inspect- ed affected with tuberculosis	12.5%	47.4%	.5%	Nil	12.4%

(Total number of carcasses examined .. .. 72,901)

**Carcasses examined prior to January 15th.** A large number of carcasses were examined during the first two weeks of the year, (prior to the introduction of Government control), and the following table sets out particulars of the examinations made.

	Cattle excluding cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed and inspected ..	218	173	23	1,462	628
ALL DISEASES EXCEPT TUBERCULOSIS .. ..					
Whole carcasses condemned ..	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	2
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ..	17	33	—	21	3
Percentage of the number inspect- ed affected with all diseases except tuberculosis .. ..	7.7%	13.2%	Nil	1.4%	.7%
TUBERCULOSIS ONLY.					
Whole carcasses condemned ..	1	Nil	Nil	Nil	1
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ..	13	61	Nil	Nil	43
Percentage of the number inspect- ed affected with tuberculosis	6.4%	35.1%	Nil	Nil	7%

(Total number of carcasses examined .. .. 2,504)

The total number of carcasses examined during the year was :—

First 2 weeks .. ..	2,504
Centralised slaughtering .. ..	72,901
Total .. ..	<u>75,405</u>

The variations in the percentages of the number of animals inspected affected with disease are worthy of comment. The following table shows the percentages from the year 1938.



**Percentage of the number of animals inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis.**

Year	Cattle excluding cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
1938	7.65%	25.15%	.07%	2.5%	2.05%
1939	8.0%	22.4%	.29%	1.7%	1.8%
1940 (First 2 weeks)	7.7%	13.2%	Nil	1.4%	.7%
1940 (Centralised slaughtering from 15th January)	31.7%	44.4%	1.0%	7.6%	10.5%

**Percentage of the number of animals inspected affected with Tuberculosis.**

Year	Cattle excluding cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
1938	6.01%	37.94%	.04%	Nil	6.57%
1939	6.0%	37.4%	.04%	Nil	6.8%
1940 (First 2 weeks)	6.4%	35.1%	Nil	Nil	7.0%
1940 (Centralised slaughtering from 15th January)	12.5%	47.4%	.5%	Nil	12.4%

The figures for 1938, 1939 and for the first two weeks in 1940, are fairly constant. There are marked increases in the percentages of animals affected with disease during the period of centralised slaughtering at the Shortacre Street slaughterhouse.

There are certain factors which account for these variations, the principal one being that under Government control there is less selectivity in the class of animals slaughtered, and consequently a higher proportion may be affected with disease, and it is also evident that the concentration of slaughtering at one premise enables a more adequate measure of inspection to be introduced and maintained.



**Unwholesome food condemned.** The following table gives details of the nature and weight of food stuffs condemned as unfit for human consumption during the year 1940, the bulk of the food stuffs being surrendered to the Sanitary Inspectors at the time of inspection.

			Tons	Cwts.	Qrs.	Lbs.
Meat and Offals	..	..	89	5	—	—
Bacon and Ham	..	..	—	14	2	15
Cooked Pork	..	..	—	—	—	5
Tinned Meats	..	..	—	—	3	3
Fish	..	..	—	—	—	14
Assorted Meat Pies		..	—	—	3	24
Potatoes	..	..	2	16	—	—
Various Tinned Foods		..	—	7	1	5
Total			93	4	3	10

Every effort was made to salvage for purposes other than human consumption the food stuffs condemned as unfit, subject to satisfactory safeguards as to methods of disposal.

**Ministry of Food—Food Control.** With regard to the duties carried out by the Sanitary Inspectors as Food Enforcement Inspectors of the Ministry of Food, approximately 1,120 visits were made to food shops and other premises in connection with investigations. The Sanitary Inspectors have appeared at the Police Court with respect to prosecutions instituted by the Food Control Committee. 182 test purchases were made, and certain samples submitted to the Public Analyst. Numerous visits were made with respect to applications under Section 4 (b) of the Rationing Order to sell food stuffs ration free, and certificates were issued with respect to a considerable amount of foodstuffs. Inspections were also made with regard to licences to slaughter pigs kept on private premises.

**Milk (Special Designations) Orders.** The following list gives details of the results of samples of graded milks sold under licences issued under the above Orders.

Designations	Number of samples taken	Satisfactory	Failed
Accredited	49	26	23
Tuberculin Tested	52	16	36
Tuberculin Tested (Certified)	17	9	8
Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised)	17	16	1
Pasteurised	72	46	26

In addition 1 Pasteurised Milk sample was subjected to the test for tubercle bacilli, and was negative. 91 samples of Pasteurised Milk were taken and submitted to the Phosphatase Test; of these, 83 were satisfactory and 8 samples failed to pass the test.

An investigation was made with reference to each unsatisfactory sample, and where samples were obtained from retailers whose licenced premises were situate outside Walsall, the authorities concerned were notified as to the unsatisfactory samples.

In my report for 1939 it was stated that the general position with regard to Milk sold under the Special Designations Orders cannot be regarded as entirely satisfactory, and there was evidence of deterioration in the conditions under which designated milks were produced and sold. The results of the samples taken during 1940 show that the deterioration has been progressive, and the position is a matter of some concern to the local authority. While it is appreciated that the milk producers, processors and retailers are working under difficult conditions particularly with regard to labour, strong representations have been made to the licence holders with respect to the unsatisfactory samples. Because of difficulties in obtaining equipment the two pasteurising plants referred to in the report for 1939 were not able to fully comply with the local authority's requests with regard to improvements.

#### FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938.

Some progress was made during the year with regard to inspection and registration of premises where preserved foods, ice cream, etc., are manufactured or sold, but because of the emergency conditions

very little works of reconditioning have been possible at any of the premises concerned.

### SAMPLING.

Mr. F. E. Thompson, A.R.C.S., F.I.C., submits the following particulars of the samples which have been analysed under the Food and Drugs Act and the Fertilisers and Feeding Stuffs Act of 1926.

229 samples were submitted for analysis, all samples were submitted by the Chief Sanitary Inspector, 118 were formal samples and 111 were informal.

The only adulteration was in respect of 1 milk sample, equivalent to 0.84%, which was 3.33% deficient of fat. The milk supply, as a whole, was exceptionally good.

12 samples were taken under the Fertilisers and Feeding Stuffs Act, 1926.

### CONCLUSION.

In what has been a difficult year may I again pay tribute to the continued support which I have received from the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee, and to the help and co-operation of the Medical Officer of Health. To my colleagues in the Health Department who have responded to every call made upon them, I tender my sincere thanks.

Yours obediently,

C. A. STANSBURY, M.S.I.A., M.R.S.I.

Chief Sanitary Inspector.









